

BOOK REVIEW

CAMPBELL, I., G. Theischinger & W.W.K. Houston, W.W.K. Houston & J.A.L. Watson, F.B. Michaelis & C.M. Yule, and A. Neboiss. 1988. Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Vol. 6. Ephemeroptera, Megaloptera, Odonata, Plecoptera, Trichoptera. Bureau of Flora & Fauna, Canberra. ed. W.W.K. Houston. Australian Government Publishing Service, GPO Box 84, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601. \$Australian 29.95 (approx. \$Canadian 27.00) incl. p. & p. ISBN 0 644 08269 3. xi+ 316 pp..

Not simply a list of names, synonymies, and literature associated with included taxa, this book includes notes on general distribution of species, and bibliographical annotations, where appropriate, by the authors of each ordinal section. Further, for each order, and family within orders, there is an introduction which includes comment on characteristics of the Australian fauna (endemism, *etc.*) of the taxon, a brief description of each life stage of the taxon, and brief notes on taxonomic history, biology, and distribution where available. The presentation, scope, and extent of the information thus provided varies between the orders included, depending, apparently, on the respective authors.

The orders are presented alphabetically, and the families within each are arranged, as the Preface puts it, "phylogenetically", whatever that may imply.

The genera, and species within genera are arranged alphabetically.

As the Preface points out, the nomenclature used for each taxon is governed by the 3rd (1985) edition of the International Code for Zoological Nomenclature.

The geographical area encompassed by the catalogue is outlined by the only illustration, a map of Australia and environs, on p. vi, and also by the Preface (p. vii) which names the offshore islands involved (including the Australian Antarctic Territory).

The Preface (incl. map) appears to be general for the series rather than specific to vol. 6. For example, that part which explains the format of the catalogue at the generic and specific levels employs an example from an obscure group of beetles, the Carabidae!

The format of presentation comprises 11 points as follows (abbreviated):

1. Genus valid name, author, year.
2. Genus available name, *etc.*, if any.
3. Qualifying statement, if any.
4. Type species, associated information.
5. Bibliographical references to synonymy.
6. Extralimital distribution.
7. Species valid name, author, year.
8. Species available name, *etc.*, if any.
9. Type data.
10. Distribution and ecology.

11. Biological references (with brief notes on contents, as required, by the present authors).

Depending on the circumstances attendant on each taxon, some of the above points may be omitted.

The text, in common with other volumes of the series, is apparently generated from a computer file, which is being constantly updated. The implication appears to be that the next edition could appear 10 days after one acquires a current copy, or 10 years later. Indeed, this volume is so up to date that the existence of recognized but as-yet-undescribed species is mentioned in passing, in some instances.

The strictly catalogue portion of the text is followed by three appendices (I – Abbreviations and symbols; II – Museum acronyms; III – Taxonomic decisions made in this work) and five taxonomic indexes, one for each order treated, in which a species may be entered as many times as there are parts to the name (*e.g.*, a species will be entered under each of generic, subgeneric, and specific epithets, as appropriate).

Ordinal and familial introductions and references (which are given in full) are printed full page width, while generic and specific entries are in double columns.

As to the physical make-up of the book - the type face used is not easy on the eye; not restful. The only word which comes to mind is 'turgid'.

An oddity noted in passing is that, in the double column parts of the text, in order to avoid having a family entry ending half way down a column on the left or right of a page, the column will be split to give two parallel part columns, and the text suddenly changes from single to double spacing, with the words of the double spaced part-column themselves more widely spaced (the text margins are justified)! This practice occurs in various situations, not just the specific one above (*e.g.*, see pp. 217, 234).

The volume is printed on matt-finish, high quality paper, and amazingly, in these times, is strongly stitched in signatures. It won't fall apart in the hand! It is hard-bound in what appears to be a stout, institutional cloth. It's meant to last.

In closing, I mention a curiosity found on p. 178 (Trichoptera section). Neboiss writes "All publications containing original description have been sighted". Sighted?! I'm puzzled – does he mean cited; or seen? Is it merely a typographical error, or have these publications been granted the boon of vision?

For those who work on, and take more than a local approach to, any of the five orders included, this book is a must. At the price, it's a bargain.

Andrew P. Nimmo
Department of Entomology
The University of Alberta